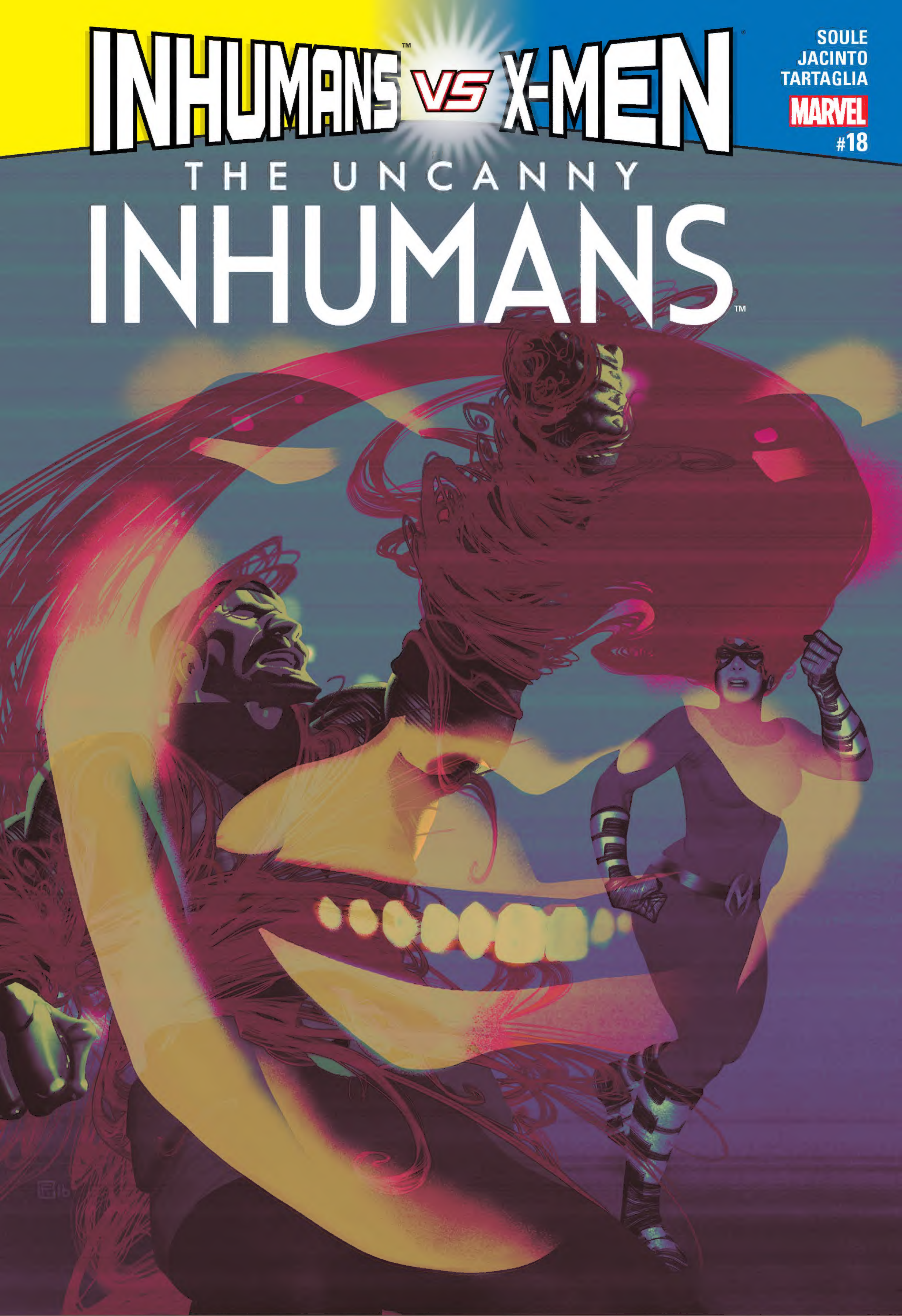
INHUMANS™ VS X-MEN

SOULE
JACINTO
TARTAGLIA

MARVEL

#18

THE UNCANNY
INHUMANS™



LIVE: VIOLENCE ERUPTS BETWEEN MUTANTS AND INHUM

Thousands of years ago aliens experimented on cavemen, supercharging their evolution, and then mysteriously left their experiments behind. These men and women built the city of Attilan and discovered a chemical called Terrigen that unlocked secret super-powers in their modified DNA, making them...

THE UNCANNY INHUMANS

LINEAGE

MAXIMUS

THE UNSPOKEN

Some time ago, desperate to protect his people from an oncoming threat, Black Bolt, the Inhuman king, with the help of his brother, the Mad Prince Maximus, detonated a bomb that dispersed massive clouds of Terrigen into Earth's atmosphere.

While the Terrigen's release ushered in a new age for the Inhumans — people across the planet have manifested powers and learned of their Inhuman heritage — the catalyst has turned out to be poisonous to mutants. Both the X-Men and the Inhumans have spent months seeking a way to protect mutants from Terrigen sickness, but their efforts have proven futile.

Recently, Maximus, who had scarcely been seen since the Terrigen bomb, resurfaced to spring two enemies of the Inhuman Royal Family from prison, not knowing the conflict between the mutants and Inhumans has reached its boiling point...

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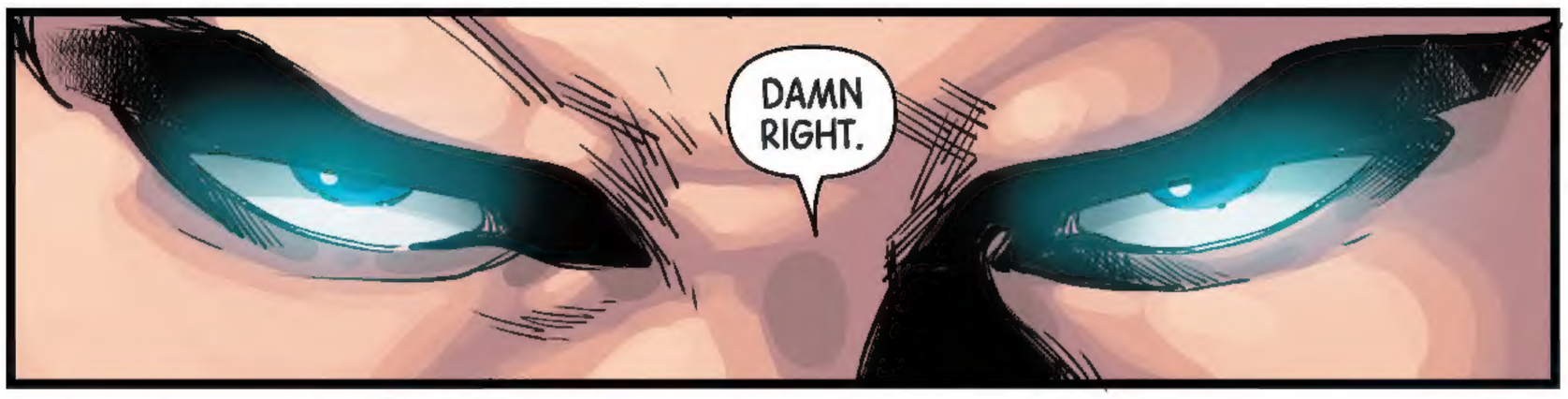
MIAMI. SOUTH BEACH.
MONTHS AGO.
WHY ARE WE HERE, MAXIMUS?
MAXIMUS THE MAD.
WHAT, YOU DON'T LIKE CLUBS? YOU JUST GOT OUT OF PRISON. I THOUGHT YOU'D ENJOY THIS.
LINEAGE.
THE UNSPOKEN.

IT'S NOT THAT. EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT US. THEY MIGHT KNOW WHO WE ARE.
YEAH. YOU GUYS CAN AT LEAST BLEND IN A LITTLE, BUT THERE AIN'T NO MISTAKING THIS PRETTY FACE.

YOU TWO MAKE ME LAUGH. YOU REALLY DO.

EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE!
WHAT IS MY NAME?

PRINCE MAXIMUS OF ATTILAN!


DAMN RIGHT.

THERE, SEE? OF *COURSE* THEY KNOW WHO I AM.
YOU JUST MIND-CONTROLLED THE WHOLE DAMN CLUB AND *TOLD THEM YOUR NAME?* ARE YOU *NUTS?*
SOME FOLKS THINK SO! I PREFER TO THINK OF MYSELF AS *UNASHAMED.* NEVER BE ASHAMED OF WHO YOU ARE, BOYS.
WITH THAT IN MIND...

...WHO ARE *YOU?*
HOW DARE YOU QUESTION ME, MAXIMUS! I WAS KING OF ATTILAN WHEN YOU WERE JUST A SQUALLING INFANT.
MM. AND NOW YOU ARE AN *OLD MAN* IN ILL-FITTING SWEATPANTS, TRULY THE MOST *HUMAN* OF ALL GARMENTS.
COLOR ME UNIMPRESSED.

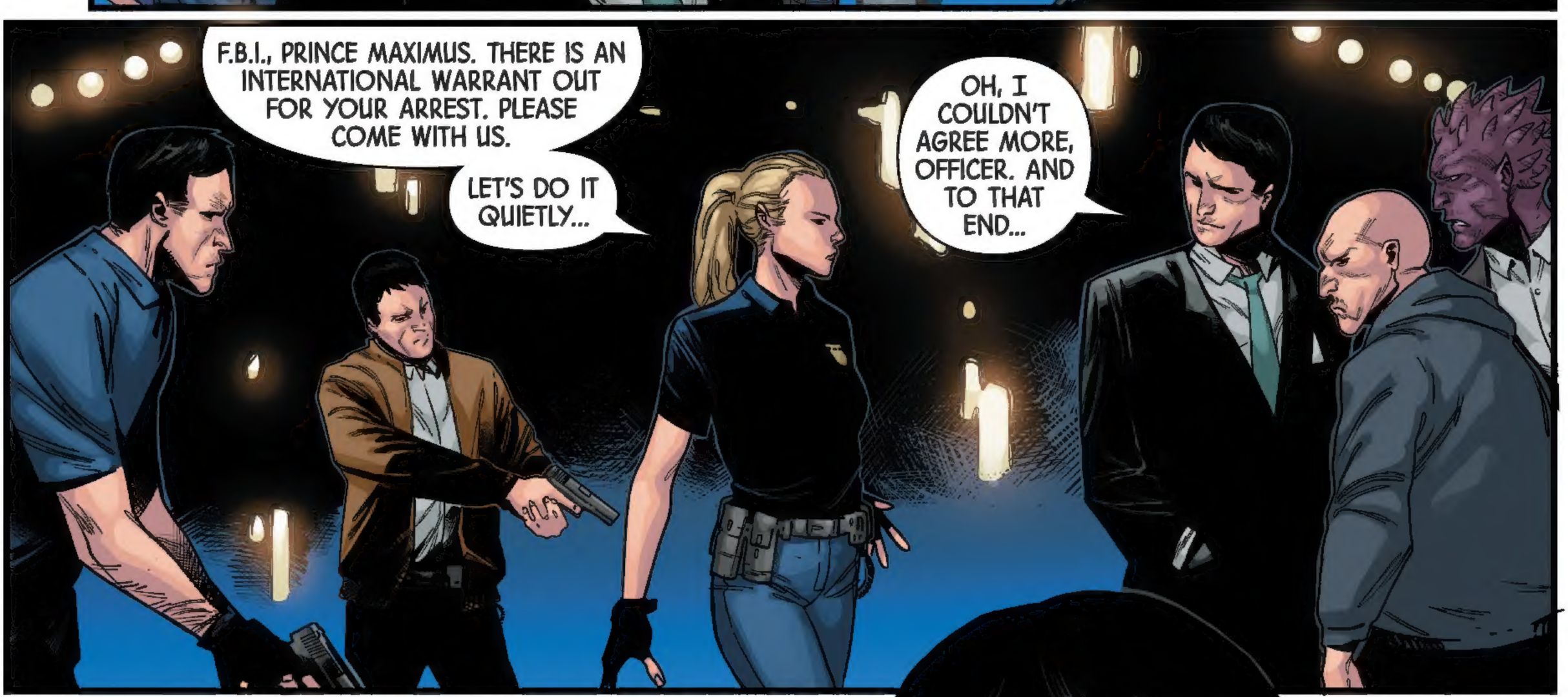
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF. GET ME A TERRIGEN CRYSTAL AND I WOULD BE *QUITE HAPPY* TO SHOW YOU WHAT A KING LOOKS LIKE, *PRINCE.*

YES, YES. IF ONLY TERRIGEN CRYSTALS STILL EXISTED. BUT THEY *DON'T.*

OKAY. WE KNOW THAT HE'S A USELESS OLDSTER. WHAT ABOUT YOU, LINEAGE? WHAT CAN YOU DO?
I, AH, CAN ACCESS THE MEMORIES OF ANYONE IN MY FAMILY. ALL MY INHUMAN ANCESTORS, GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE START, LIKE TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS.
LOTS OF GOOD INFO THERE--ALL KINDS OF SECRETS.

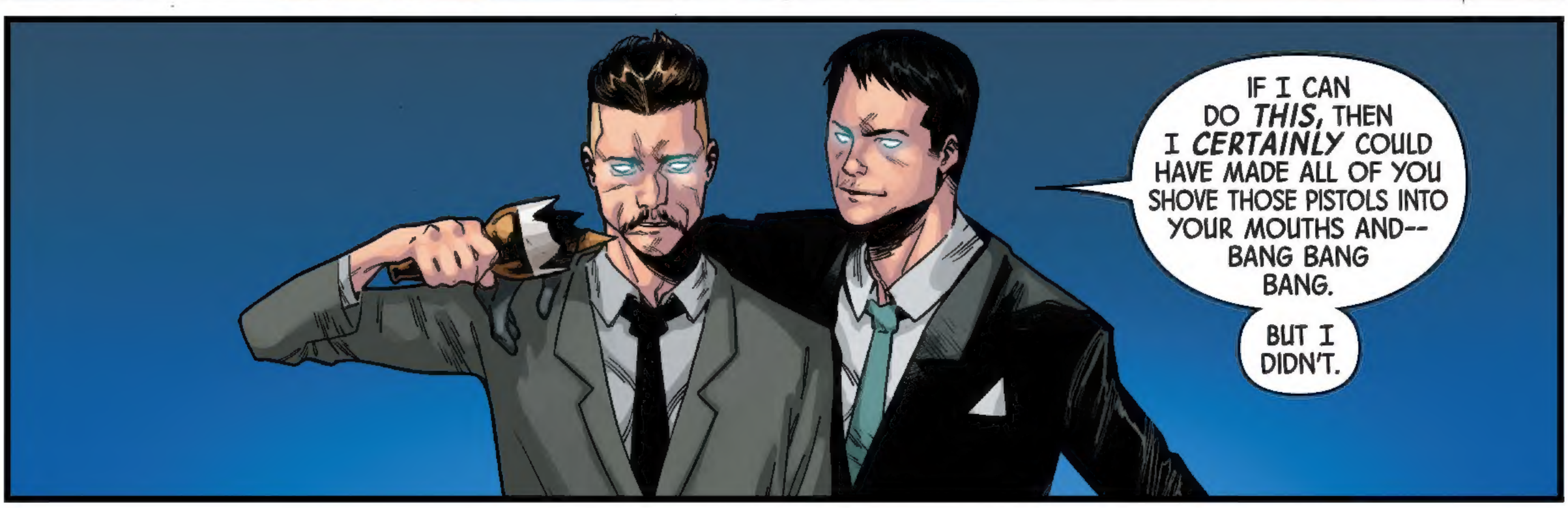
REALLY? THAT'S ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING.

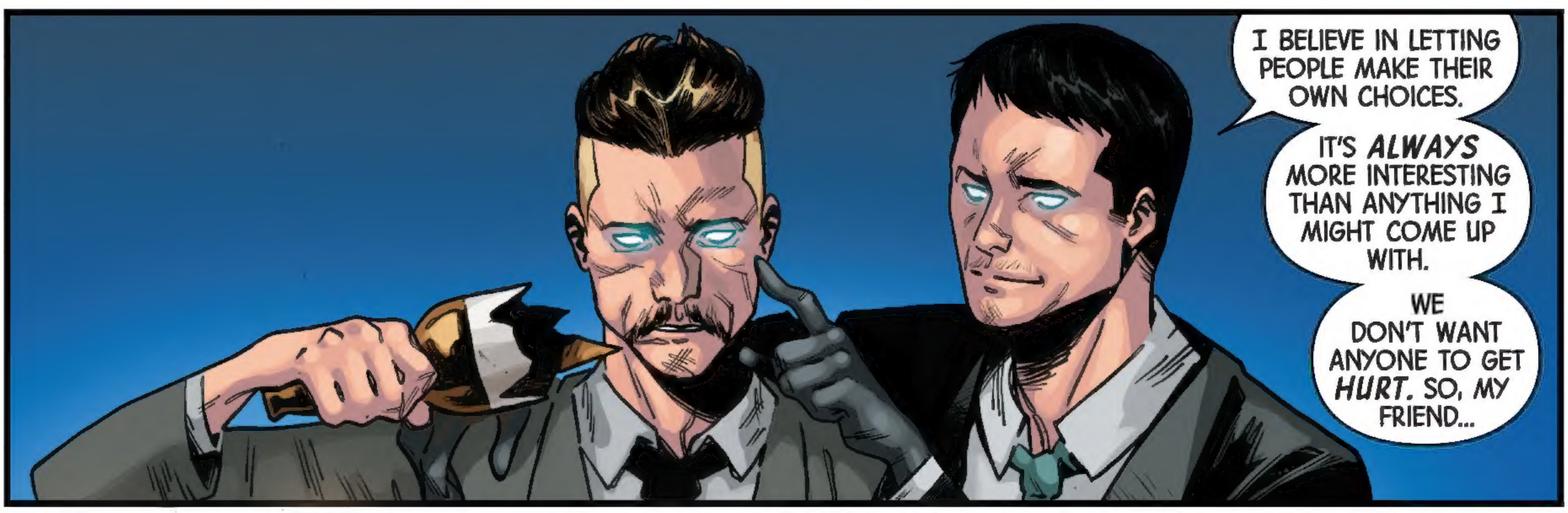
OH, WAIT. NO, IT'S NOT. YOU'RE JUST TELLING ME YOU CAN TALK TO OLD PEOPLE.
IF I WANT TO TALK TO AN OLD PERSON, I'LL JUST TALK TO THIS GUY.
THAT IS UNCALLED FOR, MAXIMUS.


F.B.I., PRINCE MAXIMUS. THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL WARRANT OUT FOR YOUR ARREST. PLEASE COME WITH US.
LET'S DO IT QUIETLY...
OH, I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, OFFICER. AND TO THAT END...

...I SUGGEST YOU LOOK BEHIND YOU.
KRRSH
KRCK
KRRSH
KRCK

WHAT... WHAT *IS THIS?*
OH, NOTHING, REALLY. ALL OF THESE PEOPLE WILL SLIT THEIR THROATS UNLESS YOU LET ME AND MY SPECIAL FRIENDS WALK ON OUT OF HERE.
NOW, AS YOU THINK IT OVER, I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER SOMETHING.


IF I CAN DO *THIS*, THEN I *CERTAINLY* COULD HAVE MADE ALL OF YOU SHOVE THOSE PISTOLS INTO YOUR MOUTHS AND-- BANG BANG BANG.
BUT I DIDN'T.


I BELIEVE IN LETTING PEOPLE MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES.
IT'S *ALWAYS* MORE INTERESTING THAN ANYTHING I MIGHT COME UP WITH.
WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO GET *HURT*. SO, MY FRIEND...

...CHOOSE.

AND OFF WE GO.

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO. I BROKE YOU OUT OF MEDUSA'S JAIL ON NEW ATTILAN BECAUSE I FIGURED IF YOU WERE INTERESTING ENOUGH TO BE *IN* JAIL, THEN YOU'D BE INTERESTING *OUT* OF JAIL.
SO FAR, I AM UNCONVINCED.
COME ON, MAXIMUS. IF YOU CUT US LOOSE, WE'RE *DONE*. WE'LL BE BACK INSIDE BEFORE WE KNOW IT.
Party

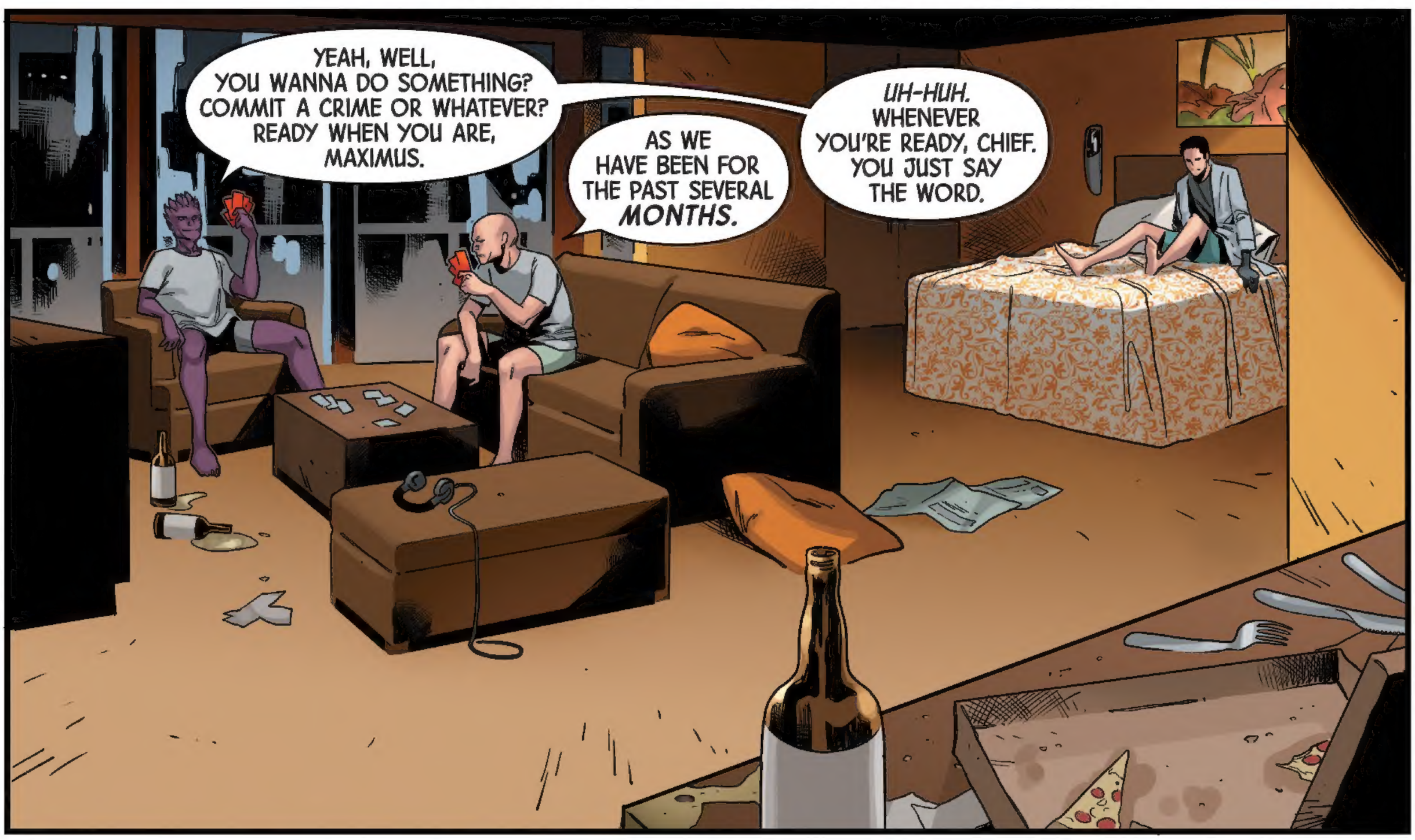
YUP, I KNOW. I'M ALSO ABLE TO ADMIT THAT FIRST IMPRESSIONS AREN'T EVERYTHING. SOMETIMES PEOPLE REVEAL THEMSELVES OVER TIME.
MAYBE YOU GUYS ARE GREAT! WHO KNOWS?
YOUR ARROGANCE IS *CONFOUNDING*, PRINCE.

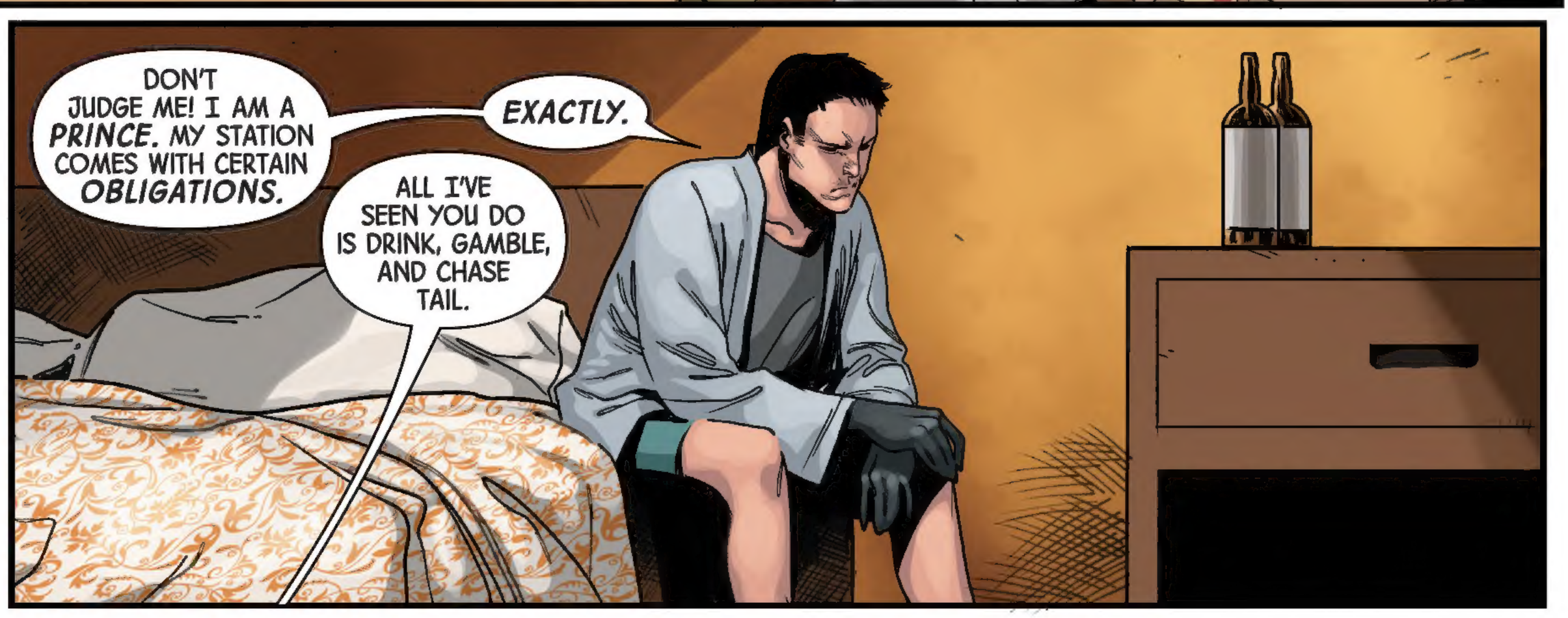
I HAVE TO SAY, I DO KIND OF FEEL LIKE HAVING A GANG. I HAVEN'T HAD A GANG IN *AGES*.
WHAT DO YOU SAY? SHOULD WE GANG? I THINK WE SHOULD GANG.

YOU SEE ANY OTHER OPTIONS HERE?
NO. I DO NOT.
YEAH. ME NEITHER.

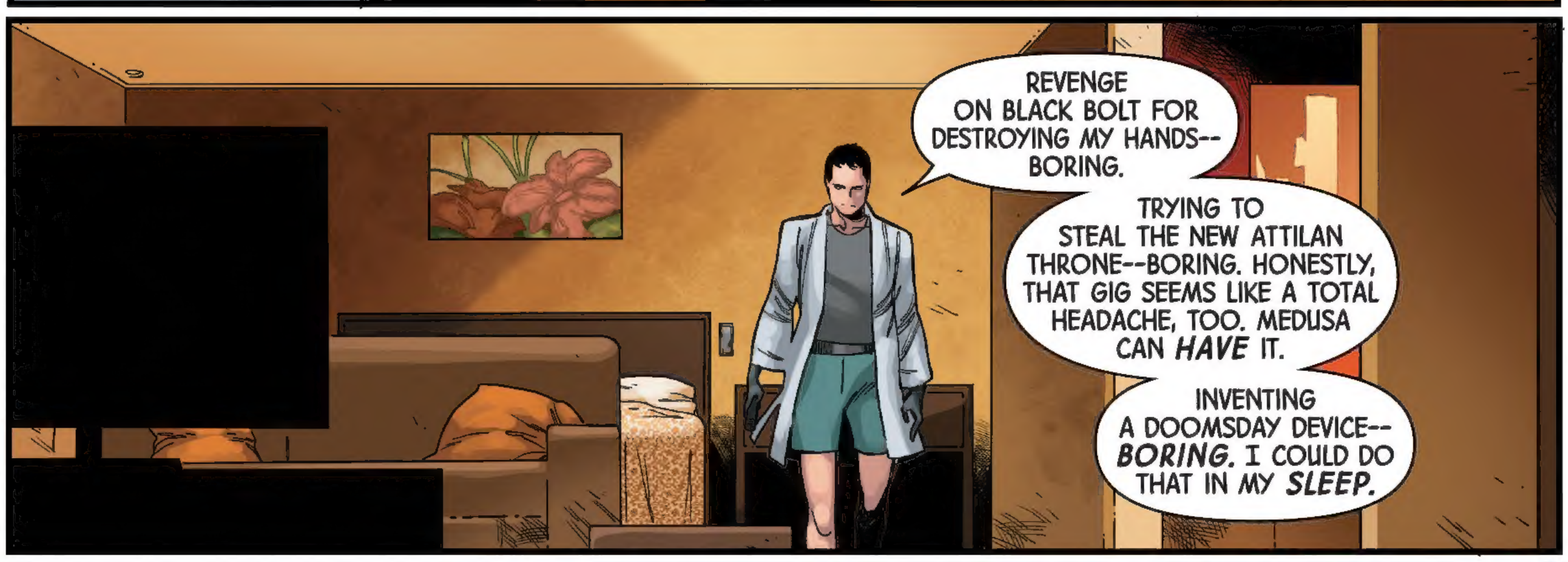
GREAT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE NEED TO START GANGING.
GANGING WON'T GANG ITSELF, YOU KNOW!

NOW.
UGH. SO, THIS IS %@#& BORING.

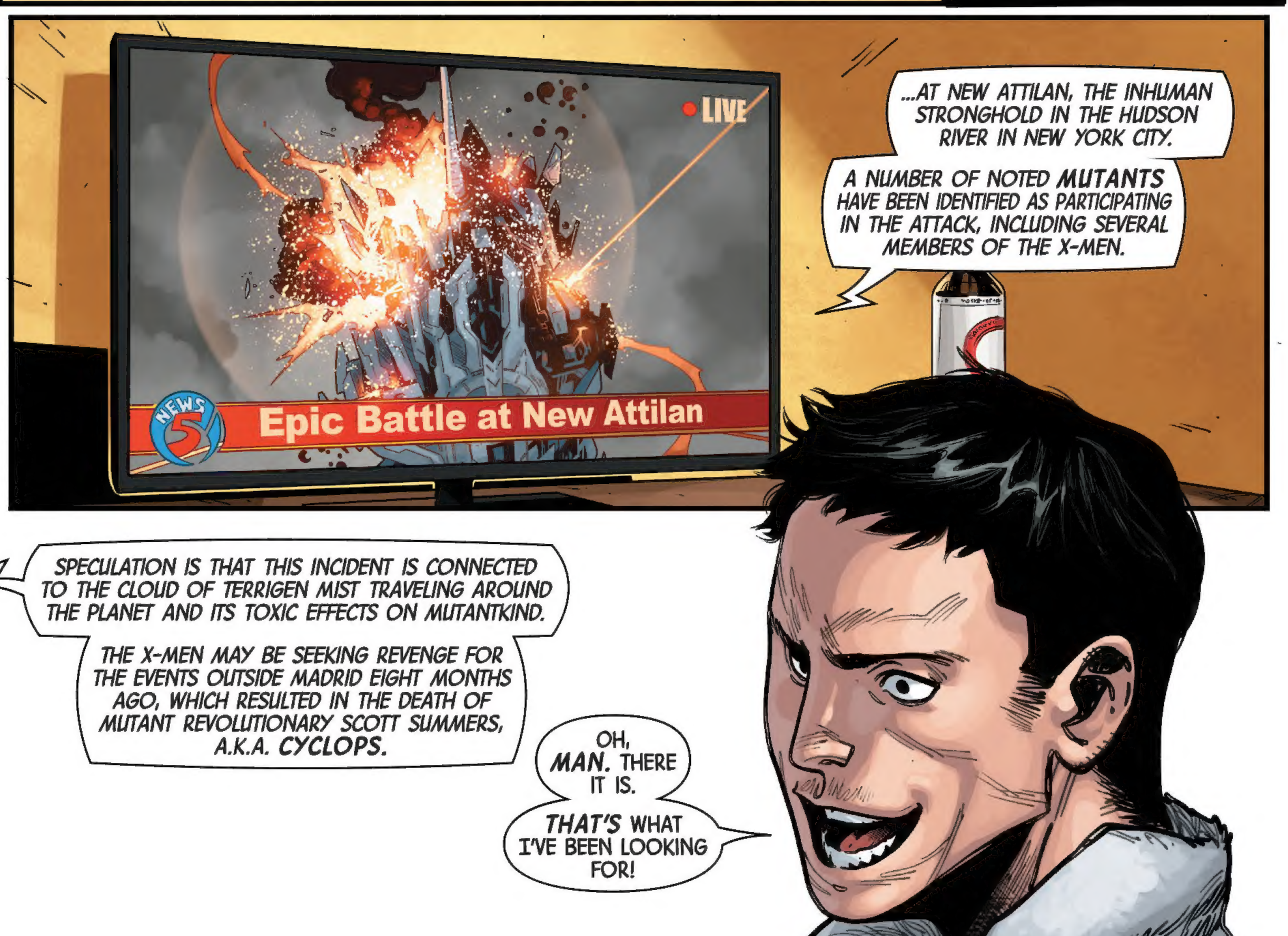

YEAH, WELL, YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING? COMMIT A CRIME OR WHATEVER? READY WHEN YOU ARE, MAXIMUS.
AS WE HAVE BEEN FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.
UH-HUH. WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, CHIEF. YOU JUST SAY THE WORD.


DON'T JUDGE ME! I AM A PRINCE. MY STATION COMES WITH CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.
EXACTLY.
ALL I'VE SEEN YOU DO IS DRINK, GAMBLE, AND CHASE TAIL.

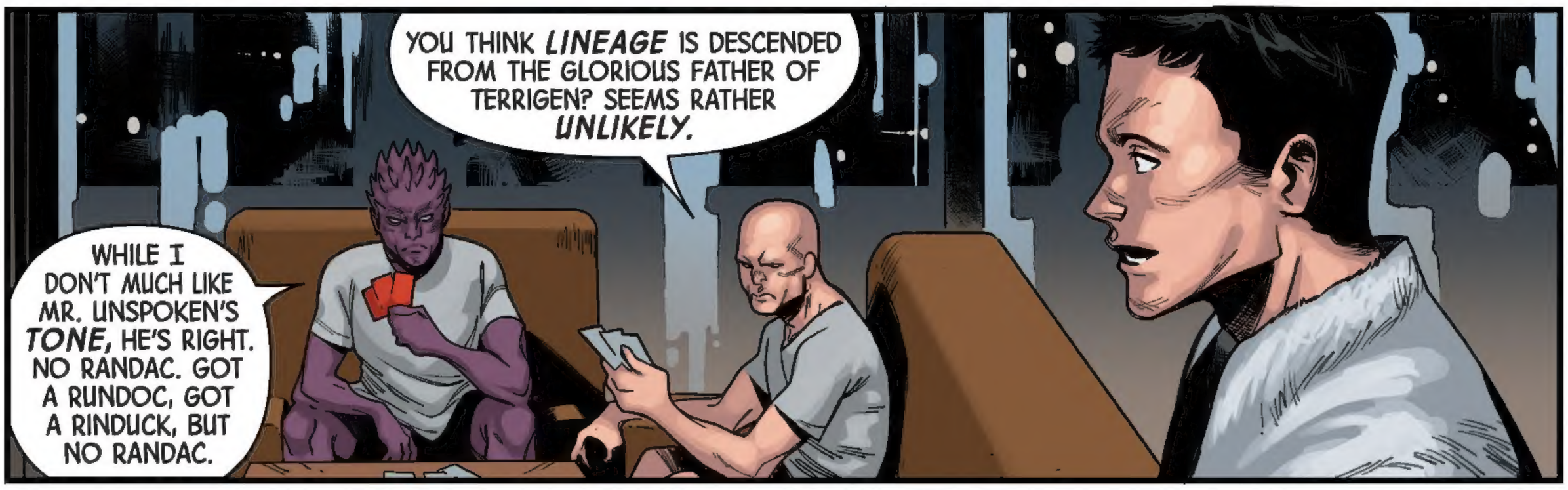
I NEED *INSPIRATION.* IF I HAVE THE RIGHT IDEA, I'M CAPABLE OF ALMOST *ANYTHING.*
BUT NOTHING'S *COMING* TO ME. EVERYTHING I THINK OF JUST SEEMS SO...BORING.


REVENGE ON BLACK BOLT FOR DESTROYING MY HANDS--BORING.
TRYING TO STEAL THE NEW ATTILAN THRONE--BORING. HONESTLY, THAT GIG SEEMS LIKE A TOTAL HEADACHE, TOO. MEDUSA CAN *HAVE* IT.
INVENTING A DOOMSDAY DEVICE--*BORING.* I COULD DO THAT IN MY *SLEEP.*

KLK


LIVE
NEWS 5
Epic Battle at New Attilan
...AT NEW ATTILAN, THE INHUMAN STRONGHOLD IN THE HUDSON RIVER IN NEW YORK CITY.
A NUMBER OF NOTED **MUTANTS** HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PARTICIPATING IN THE ATTACK, INCLUDING SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE X-MEN.
SPECULATION IS THAT THIS INCIDENT IS CONNECTED TO THE CLOUD OF TERRIGEN MIST TRAVELING AROUND THE PLANET AND ITS TOXIC EFFECTS ON MUTANTKIND.
THE X-MEN MAY BE SEEKING REVENGE FOR THE EVENTS OUTSIDE MADRID EIGHT MONTHS AGO, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF MUTANT REVOLUTIONARY SCOTT SUMMERS, A.K.A. **CYCLOPS.**
OH, *MAN.* THERE IT IS.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

LINEAGE! I NEED YOU!
UH... I'M RIGHT HERE. WHAT'D YOU COME UP WITH?
ALL THOSE ANCESTORS YOU CAN ACCESS--YOU HAVE A FELLOW NAMED *RANDAC* IN THERE?


YOU THINK *LINEAGE* IS DESCENDED FROM THE GLORIOUS FATHER OF TERRIGEN? SEEMS RATHER *UNLIKELY.*
WHILE I DON'T MUCH LIKE MR. UNSPOKEN'S *TONE,* HE'S RIGHT. NO RANDAC. GOT A RUNDOC, GOT A RINDUCK, BUT NO RANDAC.

OKAY-- WHO WERE RANDAC'S CLOSEST ADVISORS? THE OTHER GENETICISTS WHO WORKED WITH HIM? BALT, I KNOW HIM. WHO ELSE?
AH...LET'S SEE. KIVVIN, EILEEN, MONAN.

WAIT. MONAN. I'VE GOT *MONAN* IN HERE.
WELL, BRING HIM OUT! I NEED TO TALK TO HIM!

ALL RIGHT, COOL YOUR JETS. LET ME JUST...

"...FIND HIM."

HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSE WE'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN HERE, MONAN?

FOREVER.

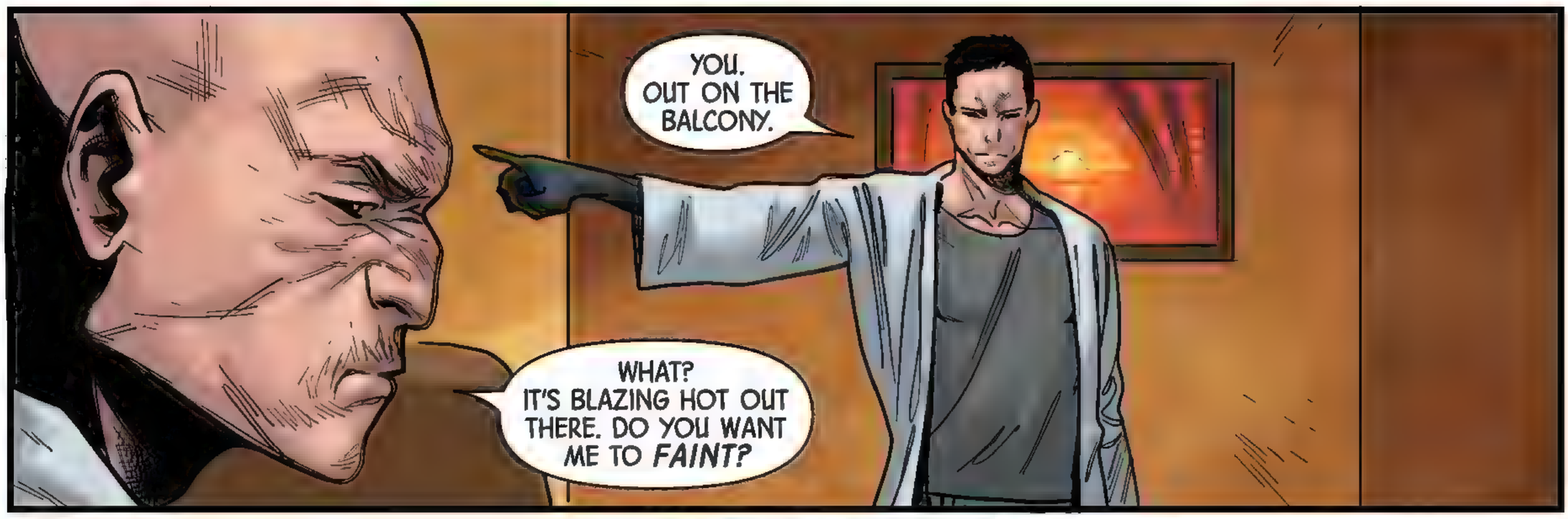
HOW LONG YOU THINK WE'LL BE HERE?

FOREV--

COME ON, LITTLE GUY. I'VE GOT SOME WORK FOR YOU.

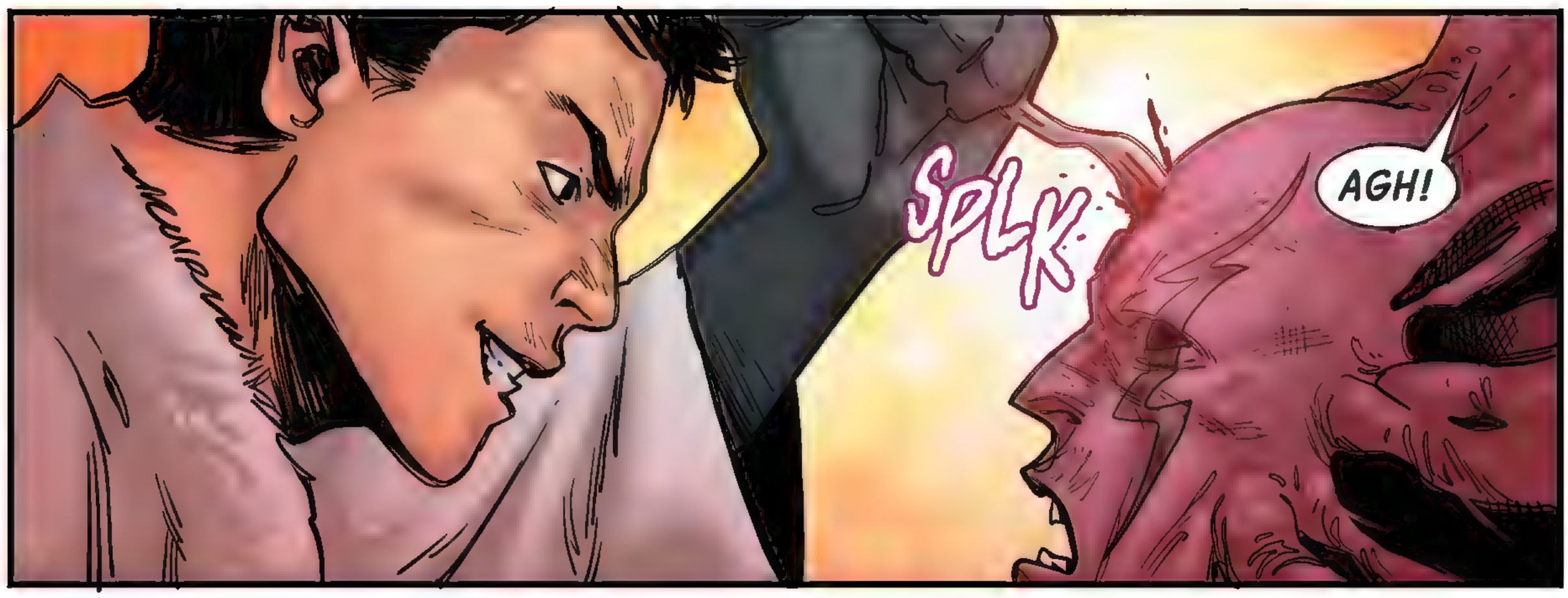
AAAAGH!

SORT OF.

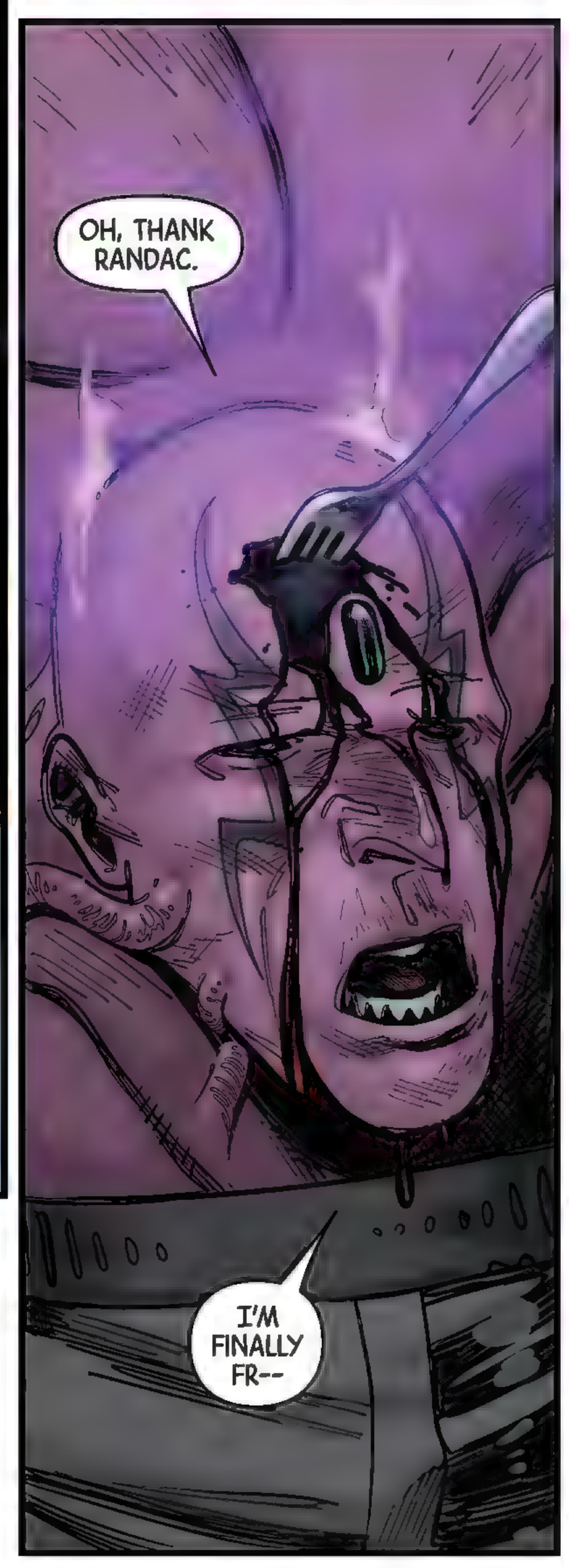

YOU. OUT ON THE BALCONY.
WHAT? IT'S BLAZING HOT OUT THERE. DO YOU WANT ME TO *FAINT?*

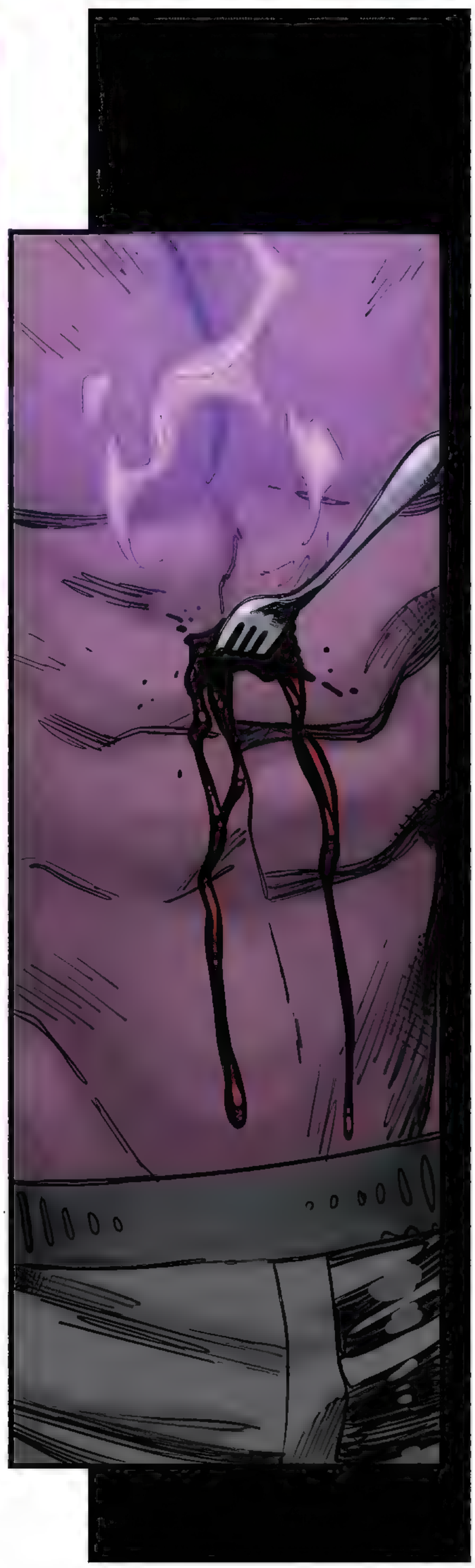
NO. I WANT YOU *OUT ON THE BALCONY.*
GO, OR I'LL *MAKE* YOU GO.
PIZZ

AND *YOU*--PUT THESE ON. TURN IT UP ALL THE WAY. AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR SENSITIVE EARDRUMS.
WHATEVER, MAN.


SPLK
AGH!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!


OH, THANK RANDAC.
I'M FINALLY FR--



YEEARGH!
SPLTCH

YOU STABBED ME, YOU SONNUVA--!
NO, I STABBED MONAN.
IT IS EXACTLY THE SAME THING!

LOOK, I'M SORRY IF YOU GOT A LITTLE BIT STABBED--BIG DEAL--BUT I WANTED TO MAKE SURE MONAN COULD NEVER TELL YOU WHAT HE TOLD ME.
SEE? NOW THAT I'VE EXPLAINED, I BET YOU FEEL PRETTY STUPID.

YOU BETTER WATCH YOUR DAMN BACK, THAT'S WHAT I SAY. WE'LL SEE WHO'S STUPID.
UH-HUH. ANYWAY, LET'S GET THE UNSPOKEN BACK IN HERE.

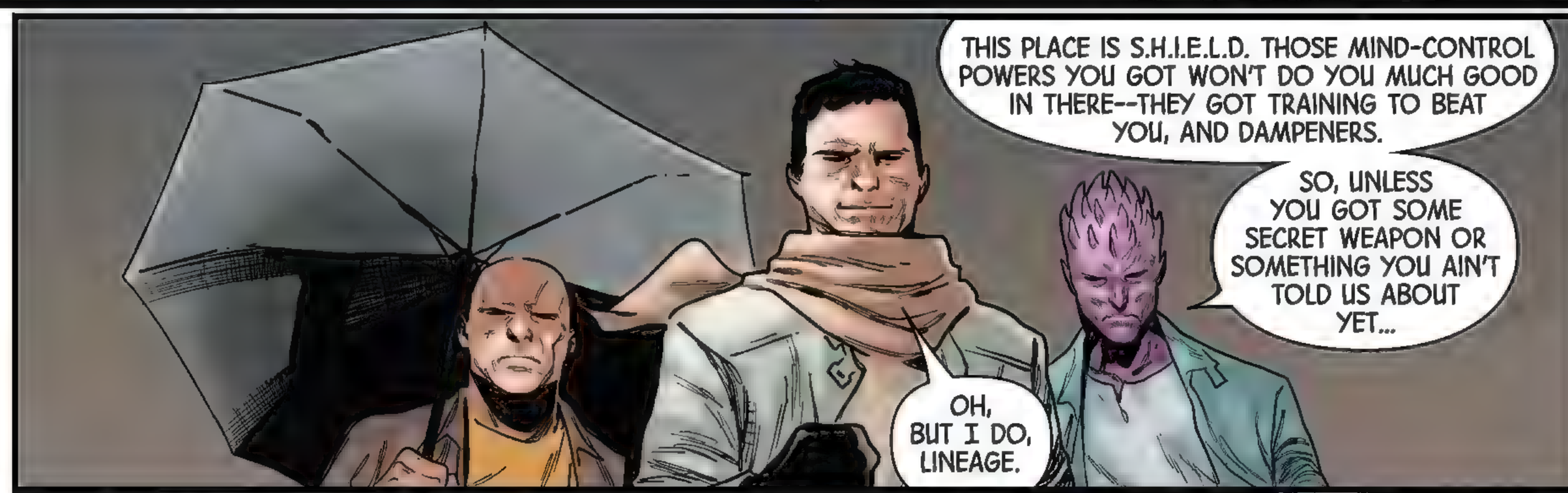
IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT THE PLAN.

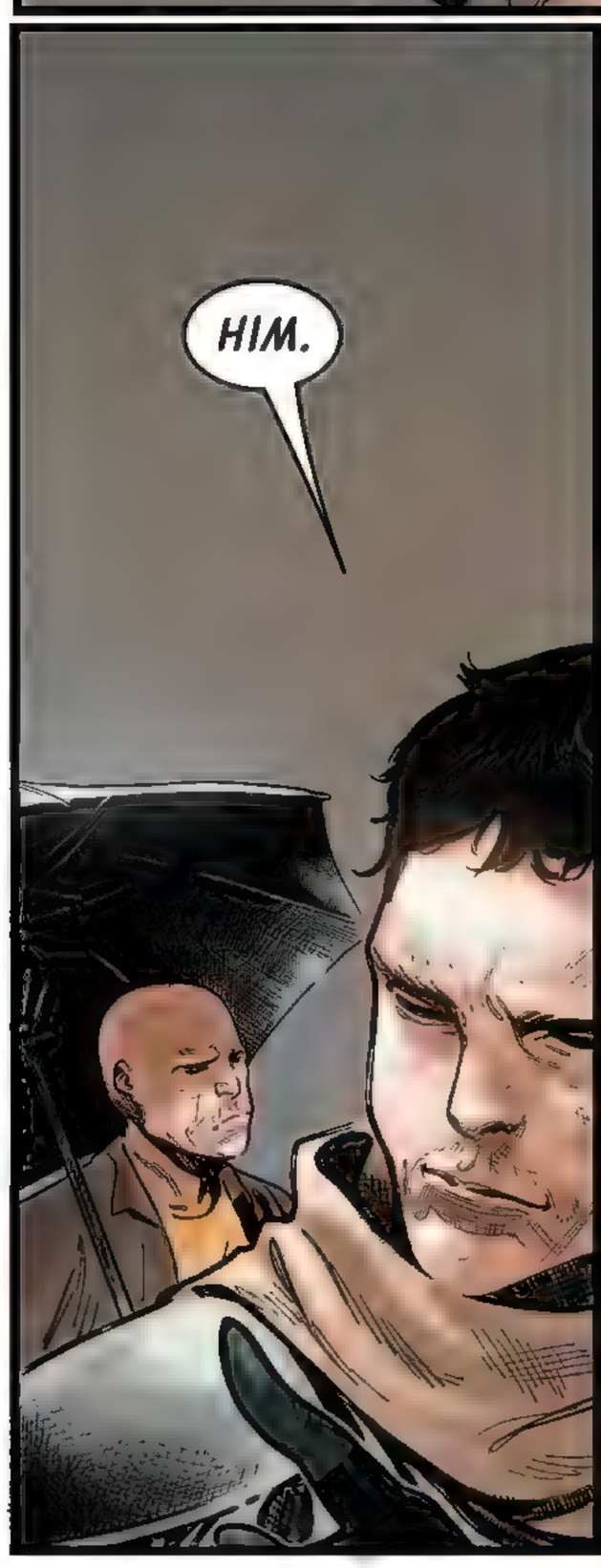
NEW MEXICO.
DRYGULCH--S.H.I.E.L.D. MAXIMUM SECURITY DETENTION FACILITY.

THIS IS YOUR *PLAN?* A *JAILBREAK?*

JUST THE FIRST PART! WE'RE ABOUT TO WALK A LONG, TWISTED ROAD TOGETHER, FRIENDS.

YOU KNOW, I RECOGNIZE THAT LOGO ON THE ROOF.



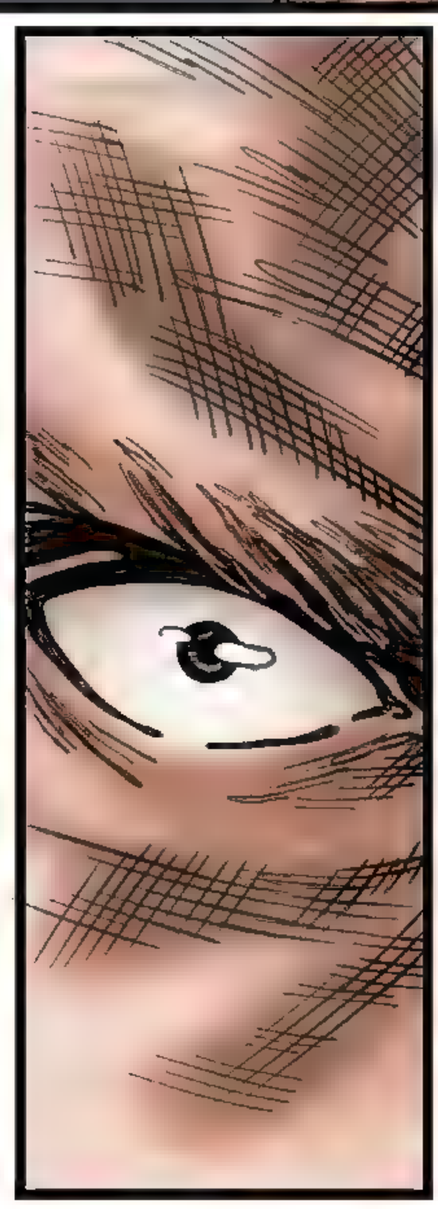


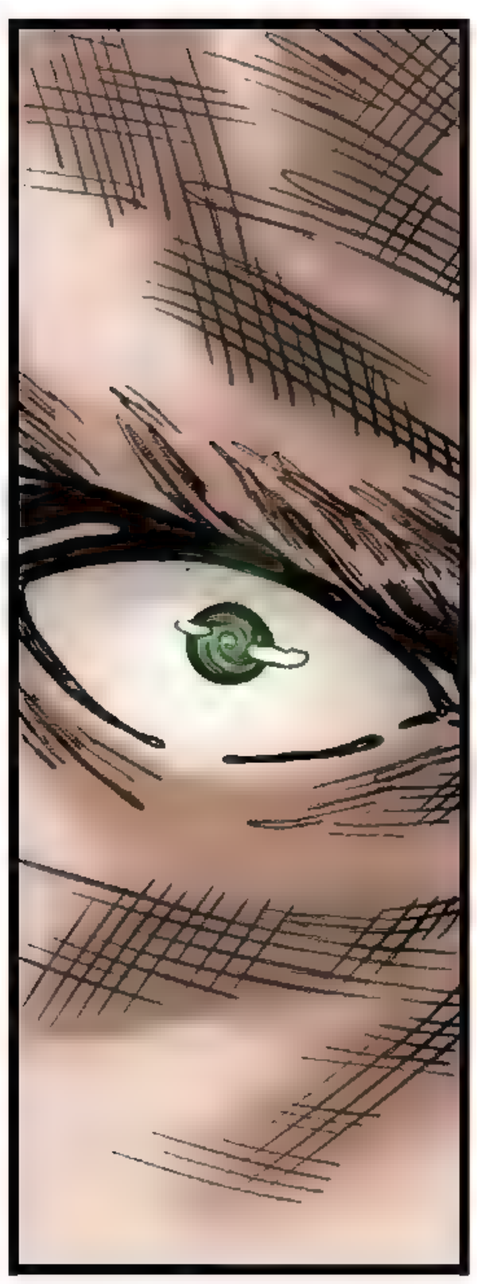
SURE IS.
BUT...YOU SAID IT WAS ALL *GONE.*
I *LIED.* I DO THAT *ALL THE TIME*-- FAIR WARNING. I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW I HAD SOME, OTHERWISE YOU'D JUST HAVE BEEN BUGGING ME FOR IT CONSTANTLY.

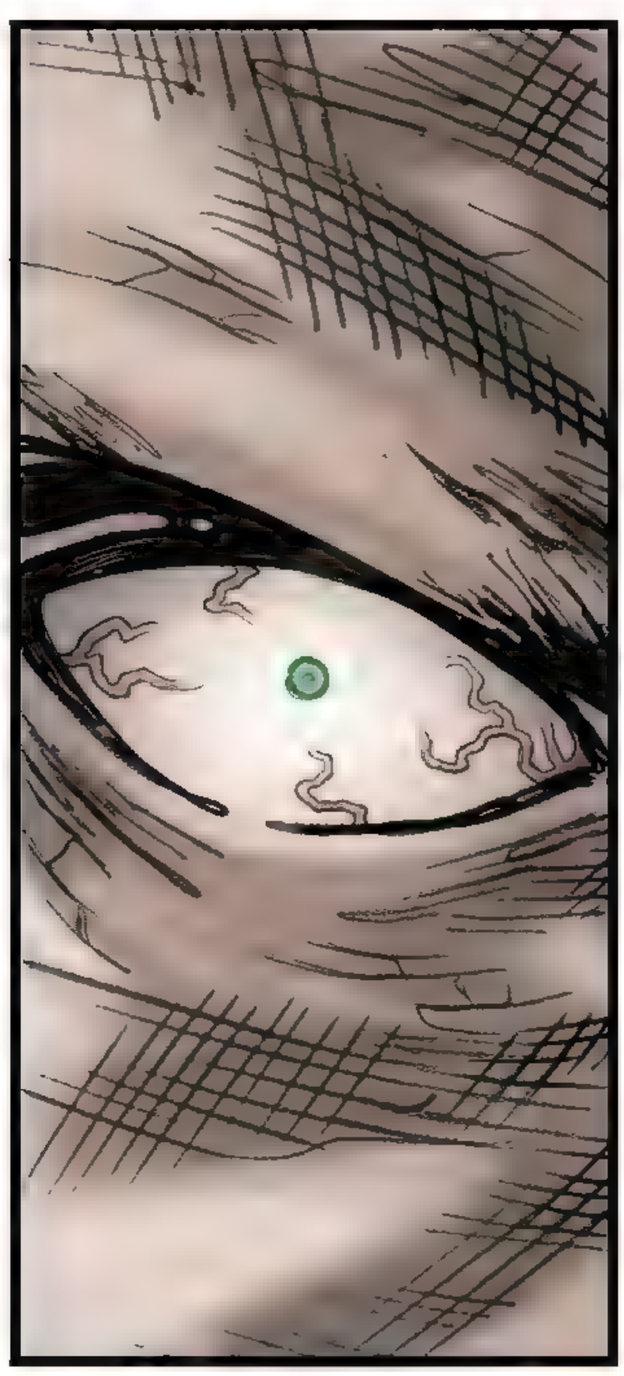
AS FAR AS I KNOW, THIS IS THE LAST PURE TERRIGEN ON EARTH. I KNOW THAT ADULTERATED STUFF IN THE CLOUD DOESN'T DO IT FOR YOU. YOUR VERY LAST HIT OF THE GOOD STUFF.
YOU CAN HAVE IT, IF YOU HEAD INTO THAT FACILITY AND BRING ME PRISONER 423-IX. DO THAT, AND A DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE TERRIGEN YOU WANT.

DEAL.

AT *LAST.*







OOOOH.

YES.

HOLY... HE CAN DO *THAT?*

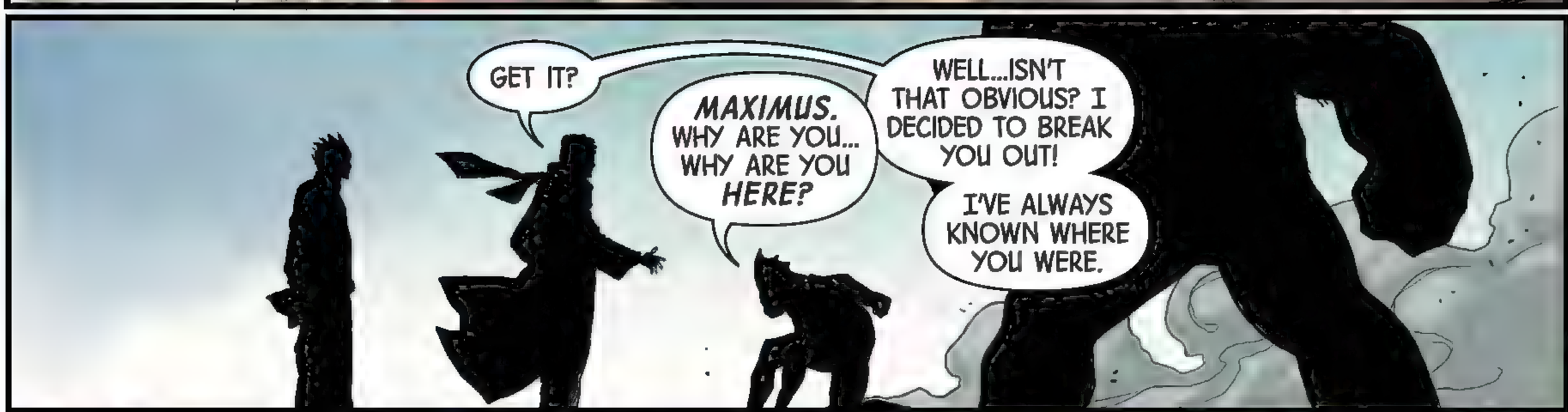
YEAH, BUT NOT FOR LONG. THAT LITTLE BIT OF CRYSTAL WASN'T MUCH OF A HIT. I HOPE HE HURRIES. IF HE'S NOT BACK PRETTY SOON, WE'LL NEED TO SKEDADDLE.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

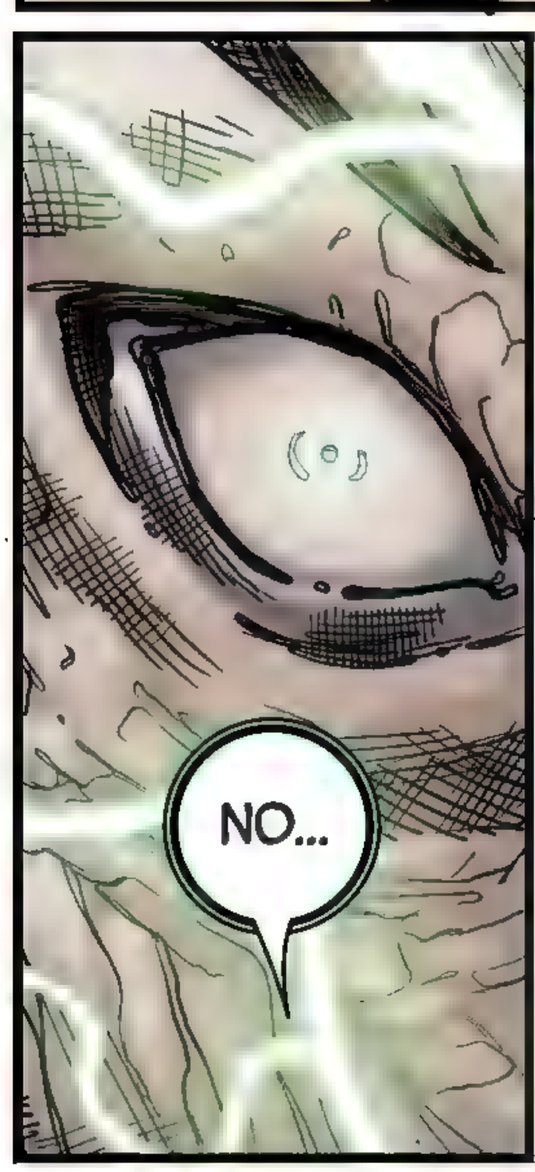
"...I HAVE TO MAKE A QUICK *CALL!*"

WHOA. THAT'S... WHOA.
BANYAN? HI, YEAH--IT'S MAXIMUS. YOU KNOW HOW WE TALKED ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER SOMEDAY, IF WE COULD FIND THE RIGHT PROJECT?
WELL, BUDDY, DO I HAVE A PROJECT!
TIME TO GO.
OOPS, GOTTA RUN. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOOD ON THIS END, THOUGH.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

GOT HIM.
HEY THERE, *TRITON.* LONG TIME NO *SEA.*


GET IT?
MAXIMUS. WHY ARE YOU... WHY ARE YOU *HERE?*
WELL...ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS? I DECIDED TO BREAK YOU OUT!
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHERE YOU WERE.

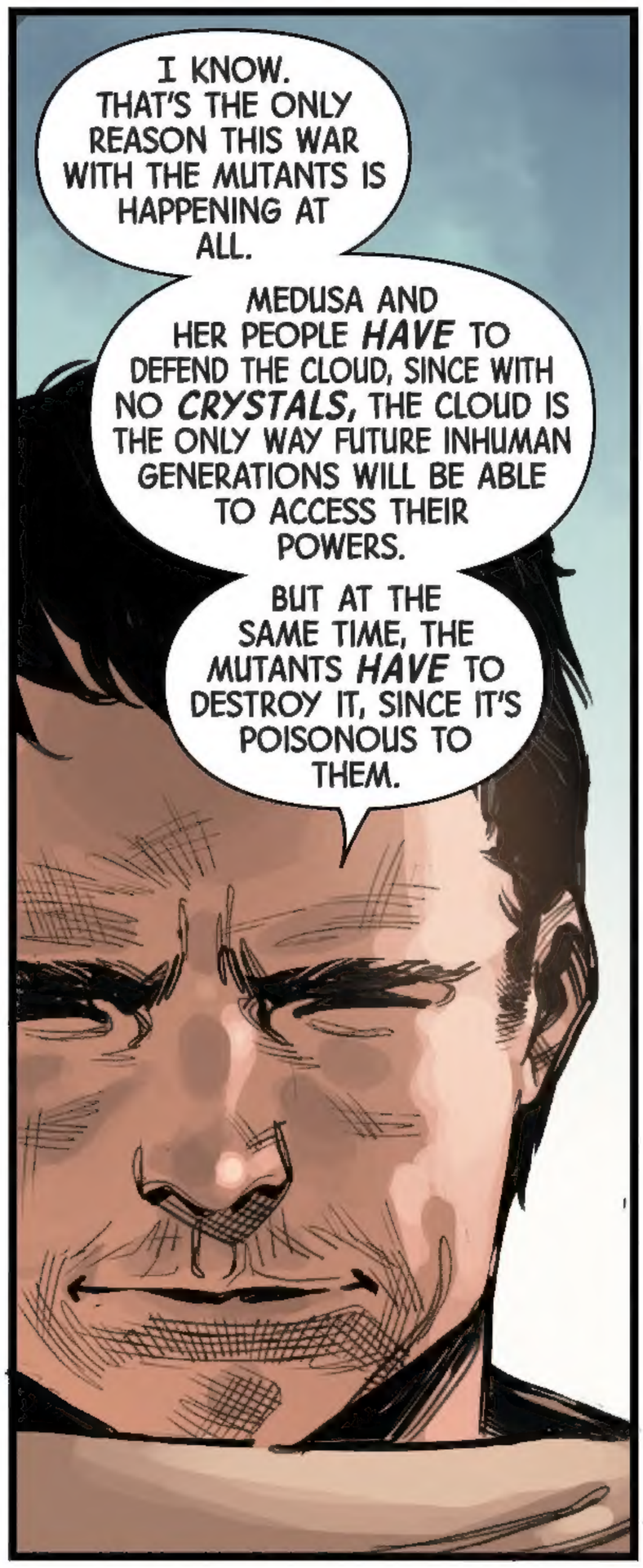
I JUST DIDN'T NEED YOU UNTIL NOW.
YOU'RE A *MONSTER.* I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

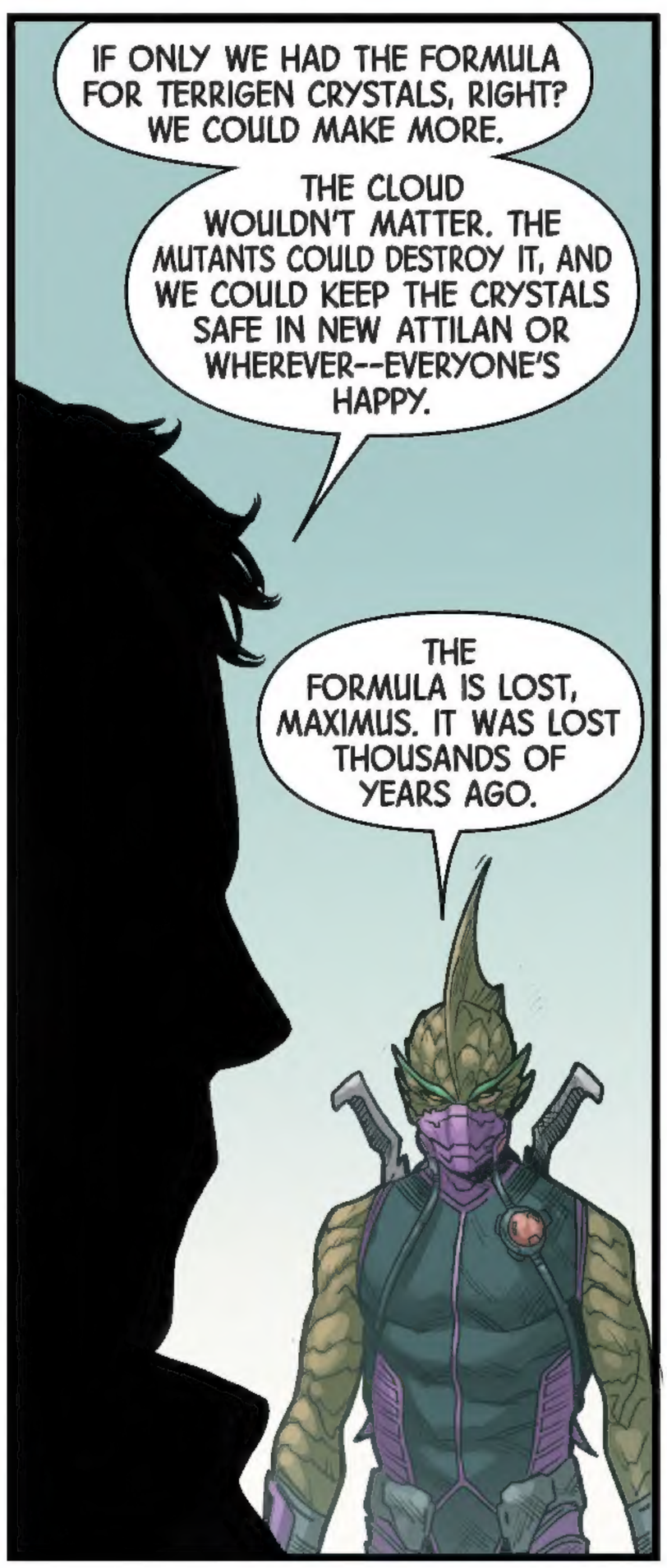

NO...

NO! NOT YET. NOT--

--YET.

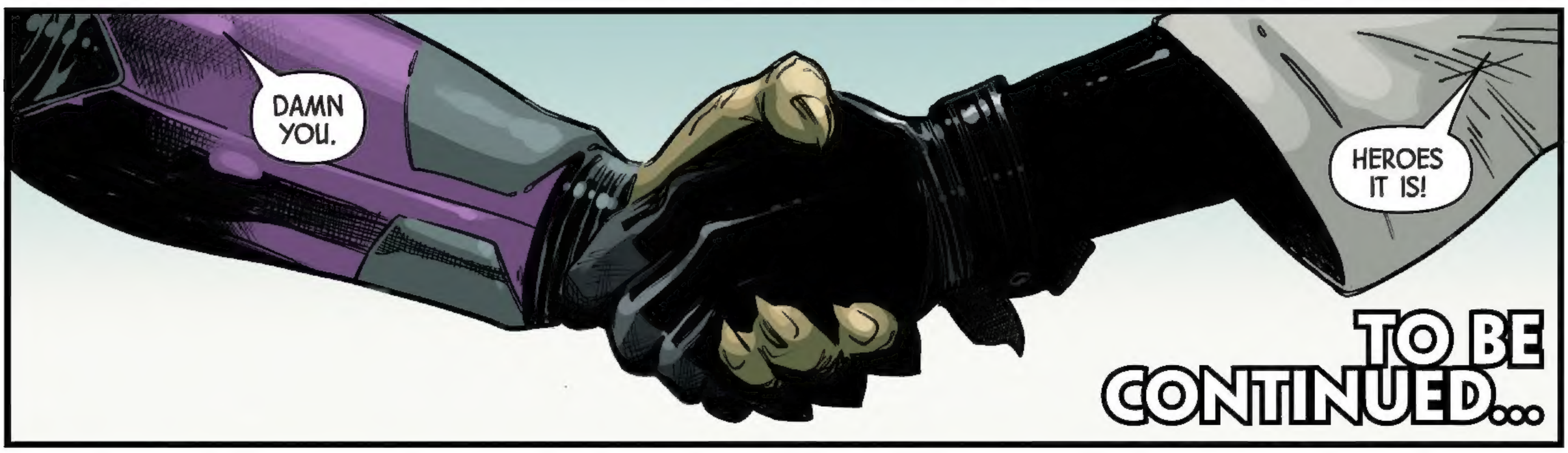
HEAR ME OUT, TRITON. THIS IS A TIME OF GREAT CRISIS AND TERRIBLE DANGER FOR OUR PEOPLE! AGAIN!
THE MUTANTS HAVE DECLARED WAR ON US. THEY ATTACKED NEW ATTILAN!
WHAT? WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO US? IS ANYONE *HURT?*
EH. PROBABLY. THAT'S NOT REALLY THE *POINT.*
PLEASE...PLEASE...DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE TERRIGEN CRYSTALS? I DID AS YOU ASKED. JUST A LITTLE TASTE... PLEASE...TELL ME YOU HAVE SOME MORE.
SOON ENOUGH, OLD MAN. DON'T YOU WORRY.
WHAT? NO, YOU'RE WRONG. THE TERRIGEN CRYSTALS ARE ALL *GONE.* THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT THE *CLOUD.*


I KNOW. THAT'S THE ONLY REASON THIS WAR WITH THE MUTANTS IS HAPPENING AT ALL.
MEDUSA AND HER PEOPLE *HAVE* TO DEFEND THE CLOUD, SINCE WITH NO *CRYSTALS,* THE CLOUD IS THE ONLY WAY FUTURE INHUMAN GENERATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THEIR POWERS.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE MUTANTS *HAVE* TO DESTROY IT, SINCE IT'S POISONOUS TO THEM.


IF ONLY WE HAD THE FORMULA FOR TERRIGEN CRYSTALS, RIGHT? WE COULD MAKE MORE.
THE CLOUD WOULDN'T MATTER. THE MUTANTS COULD DESTROY IT, AND WE COULD KEEP THE CRYSTALS SAFE IN NEW ATTILAN OR WHEREVER--EVERYONE'S HAPPY.
THE FORMULA IS LOST, MAXIMUS. IT WAS LOST THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.

EXACTLY. IT *WAS* LOST.

*SEE *UNCANNY INHUMANS* #11-14!



NEXT:

A NEW INHUMAN TEAM FORMS IN
INHUMANS VS. X-MEN #3!

THE TIDES TURN IN
INHUMANS VS. X-MEN #4!

AND MAXIMUS' TERRIGEN QUEST
CONTINUES IN
UNCANNY INHUMANS #19!

ZONE